

LOCAL HISTORY

Lennon and Ono make art in Syracuse

44 Years Ago:

On Oct. 9, 1971, John Lennon and Yoko Ono came to Syracuse. The Everson Museum was mounting an exhibition by Ono entitled, "This is Not Here." Lennon was to celebrate his 31st birthday in Syracuse, and there was a rumor that the occasion might lead to a reunion of at least



Yoko Ono and John Lennon in Syracuse. (Everson Museum photo)

three of The Beatles for a small, impromptu concert at the museum. The rumor led to a near-riot at the Everson, so Lennon, Ono and several of their guests retreated to a room at the Hotel Syracuse for Lennon's party. There, with other musicians, (including Eric Clapton and Beatle drummer Ringo Starr, who played percussion on a wastebasket) Lennon led the only "near" performance by The Beatles in Syracuse, playing over 20 songs, including "Peggy Sue," "Yellow Submarine," "Give Peace a Chance," and "My Sweet Lord."

— Dan Connors for the OHA



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